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AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DC/R 773.5-MSP/12-854

FROM : American Embassy, Tripoli

13
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE December 8, 1954
DATE

REF :

REVIEWED BY J. M. Razi DATE May 6, 1982

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	POST	DATE
	NEA-4	INR-2 OLI-6	P-1 E-4	REP 2 5/11
	REC'D 12-15	FOR OTHER		
		CIA-7 USIA-10	FOA-10	

SUBJECT: Criticism of the U. S. Technical Assistance Program by Local Arabic Newspaper

UNCLASSIFIED

There is attached an unofficial translation of an editorial "Where are the Results of the Projects Which Point Four Prepared" which appeared in the December 2, 1954 issue of Tarablus Al-Gharb, a local daily newspaper controlled and directed by the Libyan Government.

The article charges that after more than two years operation, the Point Four program has produced little of a tangible nature to justify the high hopes of the people of Libya at the program's inception. The research, studies, experiments and analyses made by the program's experts do not, according to the editorial, justify the large staff, numerous offices and automobiles employed by the program and provide less benefits to the country than the construction projects carried out by Point Four in other countries of North Africa and Middle East. The article states that the Libyan people expected direct assistance and quick results but that "the organization . . . aims at other objectives which we need not mention now". The article expresses the hope that the recent visit of the "Inspector General" (presumably in reference to the FOA Evaluation Team led by Dr. Ronald Bridges which departed Libya on November 27, 1954) will result in the termination of the experimental phase of the program and that projects of more real benefit to the country will be forthcoming. End UNCLASSIFIED.

CONFIDENTIAL Comment:

The editorial shows a regrettable lack of understanding of the nature and objectives of technical assistance, as opposed to economic aid, as well as a lack of information concerning the aims and accomplishments of the FOA program in Libya. Since Tarablus Al-Gharb regularly serves as a voice of the Libyan Government and presumably has access to full information regarding the operation of FOA, it may well be that the major purpose of the article was to plug for increased economic aid. It will be noted that the projects mentioned as desirable (building and housing projects, dams, schools and colleges, harbor repairs) are collectively far beyond the scope of the technical assistance program as presently envisaged. In this regard, it can be expected that the Government will lose no opportunity to express its desire and expectation of generous aid over and above that provided for in the understandings ancillary

TCAdams/lva
REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

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to the Base Agreement.

The Embassy believes that the sentiments expressed in the article can best be combatted through more effective publicity on the part of USOM/L. End CONFIDENTIAL

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

1. Translation of editorial.

1 encl. attached
FP

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

Tarablus Al-Gharb, December 2, 1954.

"From the Voice of the People"

"Where are the Results of the Projects which Point Four Prepared"

One of those concerned with construction and reform in the Libyan Government told me that more than two years have elapsed since Point Four came to this country. The country had expected Point Four to carry out many useful works and vital projects with apparent benefits but until now it had not carried out what was then hoped it will. Its work was restricted to things which do not accomplish the hoped for objectives and which could not possibly calm down the anxiety of the minds and hearts which were full of hopes and expectations pursuant to the existenc of this organization.

The one who looks at the many offices of this organization, its huge staff, its several houses and its considerable number of cars, etc., dreads not to find any proportion or coordination between all of this and the results of the works of this organization in the country. One of the days in the past, the people's censure of the Government increased and they requested it to exploit these advantageous circumstances in the interests of the country and the people. However, the Government, and this is a secret between you and me, appears not to have found the encouraging response to accomplish the aims and aspirations which the people were expecting from Point Four and other similar organizations in the country. Matters were confined to hearing of the arrival of experts, the preparation of programs, carrying out of studies, analysis, experiments and other similar things. Such matters are not as useful as the projects which Point Four had carried out in other countries in both the East and the West. It seems that everything in Libya was not born, will not be born, and has no equal.

We hear every day that Point Four had carried out such and such a project, and that it had constructed this and repaired that and prepared project so and so in Lebanon, Egypt and elsewhere. The last thing we heard was that it (Point Four) agreed to build 20,000 national houses in Lebanon.

Is there not in this country projects for building national houses, houses for junior officials, erection of dams for collecting water for the irrigating lands and for quenching the thirst of the people and the livestock, building of schools and colleges, a Government printing press, and repairing of harbours, etc., etc.? What has Point Four done? It built a small number of schools after the Government had participated with it with its very limited funds, which funds, if Point Four had permitted and displayed its generousity, the Government could have saved and appropriated for expenditure on other fields. Then what? Point Four has over 300 cars, the fuel for and the maintenance of which is supplied by the Government. This is another heavy burden for which the organization gives no return in the way of satisfying the people by bringing benefits to the country.

The truth is that the people here thought and expected that the assistance rendered by this organization would be a true and a direct assistance with quick

benefits. The hope had been lost, however, and it is thought that the existence of this organization does not aim at the achievement of the aspirations of the people but aims at other objectives which we need not mention now. State of affairs in this organization, however, fully indicate them.

We have heard that the Inspector General who is touring the areas where this organization is found in "under developed" countries and has also come to Libya and has met the concerned circles and the responsible men in the Government. We have learned that complaints were made and dissatisfaction was expressed by various circles to the Inspector. We hope that this organization will get serious in rendering assistance, that is if it truly intends to assist us, and to prove this through material and tangible means and by outstanding and apparent projects. It should stop following the system of "experience", experiments, studies and research which consume the larger portion of the Assitance Funds and leave nothing for true benefits which directly help the people to arrive at their aspired goals. This is my opinion and the opinion of the one with whom I talked and who inspired this article, which opinion we put forward to those interested in this organization, signifying the assistance which comes to us from a friendly State hoping to get more benefits and a more comprehensive assistance as we need it more than any other country.